

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21. (Currently Amended): A method for determining vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) activity in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a sample to be assayed for VEGF activity with a stable HeLa cell line wherein the stable HeLa cell line comprises;

1) a reporter vector having; an expressible reporter element and a DNA binding site disposed adjacent thereto and,

2) a chimeric transactivator vector comprising a gene encoding a phosphorylatable protein that can be phosphorylated by MAPK and a DNA binding domain which specifically binds to the DNA binding site, and

3) an expression vector encoding a gene for a VEGF receptor; and

b) detecting expression of the reporter element, wherein expression of the reporter element indicates VEGF activity [A method according to Claim 1,] wherein the sample comprises cells, tissue, tissue extracts or combinations thereof.

Claims 22-24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A method for determining vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) activity in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

a) Contacting a sample to be assayed for VEGF activity with a stable HeLa cell line wherein the stable HeLa cell line comprises;

1) a reporter vector having; an expressible reporter element and a DNA binding site disposed adjacent thereto and,

2) a chimeric transactivator vector comprising

a gene encoding a phosphorylatable protein that can be phosphorylated by MAPK and a DNA binding domain which specifically binds to the DNA binding site, and

3) an expression vector encoding a gene for a VEGF receptor; and

b) detecting expression of the reporter element, wherein expression of the reporter element indicates VEGF activity [A method according to Claim 1,] further comprising the step of incubating the sample with the stable Hela cell line for a period of time ranging from approximately 10 hours to approximately 20 hours.

Claims 26-50 (Cancelled)